

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 238, AUGUST 17, 10 PM

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 6/29/77

PERFORMING OFFICE EWR

JADRC FOI CASE NO. 110567 Cited

PRIORITY

ACTION BONN PRIORITY 211, DEPARTMENT 238, INFORMATION LONDON 145, MOSCOW 148, PARIS 151, POLAD USAREUR 135

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, STOESSEL AND MCGUIRE.

FOLLOWING IS ROUNDUP BERLIN SITUATION AUG 17:

1. EAST BERLIN: SITUATION ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED FROM YESTERDAY WITH BOUNDARY BARRIERS STILL GOING UP AND TEMPORARY BARBED WIRE AND WOODEN FENCES BEING REPLACED BY MORE PERMANENT MEANS, MOSTLY INTERLOCKING CONCRETE SLABS. SEARCHLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR NIGHT OBSERVATION. WEST BERLIN POLICE REPORTS INDICATE THAT HOUSES HAVING ACCESS ON SECTOR BORDER FROM EAST TO WEST ARE BEING WALLED IN OR KEYS TAKEN FROM OCCUPANTS. TROOPS AND ARMOR STILL LOCATED IN CENTER OF CITY; OTHERWISE AIR OF OUTWARD NORMALCY PREVAILS.

AERIAL OBSERVATION BY MISSION OFFICER SHOWED THAT EAST GERMAN CREWS HAD REMOVED ABOUT 100 YARDS OF S-BAHN TRACKS BETWEEN BAUMSCHULEN WEG IN EAST BERLIN AND KOELNISCHE HEIDE IN WEST BERLIN. MISSION HAS REPORT THAT TRACKS ALSO BEING REMOVED BETWEEN S-BAHN STATION TREPTOWER PARK IN EAST BERLIN AND SONNENALLEE IN WEST BERLIN.

STRICTER CONTROLS ON AMERICAN PERSONNEL EXERCISED TODAY REPORTED SEPARATELY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/WR

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2. REFUGEES:

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-2- 238, AUGUST 17, 10 PM, FROM BERLIN

2. REFUGEES: REGISTRATIONS OF PERSONS WHO HAVE CROSSED BORDER SINCE AUG 13 TOTALED 125 YESTERDAY AND 163 TODAY. OF THESE, 7 ARE KNOWN TO BE FORMER VOPOS.

3. WEST BERLIN: DURING EARLY MORNING HOURS, BRITISH TROOPS ERECTED BARBED WIRE FENCING AROUND AREA OF SOVIET WAR MEMORIAL LN BRITISH SECTOR NEAR BRANDENBURG GATE.

WITH YESTERDAY'S MASS RALLY ZENITH OF SPONTANEOUS INDIGNATION OF POPULACE HAS PROBABLY BEEN PASSED. FIRST INDICATIONS ARE BRANDT SUCCEEDED IN DELICATE TASK OF AFFORDING EXCITED POPULACE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPEND PENT-UP FRUSTRATIONS WITHOUT EITHER MISLEADING IT WITH FALSE HOPES AND PROMISES OR AROUSING ITS ANXIETY WITH OBVIOUS PLATITUDES.

MOOD IN WEST BERLIN LABOR CIRCLES IS GLOOMY, EVEN BITTER; DOUBTS BEING EXPRESSED RE RESOLVE OF WEST TO RISK SHOWDOWN WITH COMMUNISTS. ALL WEEK WORKERS HAVE BEEN IN VAN OF WAVE OF INDIGNATION. ESPECIALLY IN METAL TRADES, BUT ALSO IN OTHER BRANCHES, WORKERS HAVE STAGED WILDCAT STRIKES DEMANDING INSTANT DISMISSAL OF KNOWN COMMUNISTS FROM PLANTS. IN EVERY CASE KNOWN TO US MANAGEMENT HAS BEEN CONSTRAINED TO COMPLY.

SED MEMBERS IN FACTORIES HAVE BEEN ROUGHED UP AND POLICE WERE BUSY SPARING OTHERS FROM INVOLUNTARY BATHS IN BERLIN CANALS. UNION OFFICIALS DO NOT CONDONE THESE ACTIONS BUT EXPRESS UNDERSTANDING FOR UNDERLYING MOTIVATIONS. LEHMANN, CHAIRMAN BERLIN METAL WORKERS, SAID UNION WOULD NOT EXPEL SED MEMBERS AND WOULD PROTECT THEIR RIGHTS, ALBEIT RELUCTANTLY. IN PESSIMISTIC MOOD, HE NOTED A REPORT THAT 20 WEST - BERLIN STUDENTS HAVE MAILED UMBRELLA TO PRESIDENT KENNEDY WITH NAME "CHAMBERLAIN" ATTACHED.

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